

While we agree that the poor will always be among us, the school nurse will not agree with one of the mothers who tried to impress her that vermin is a necessary neighbor. The nurse sent for the mother of a child with an unclean head that was receiving no attention. The mother asked the reason for sending for her, and when informed her child had vermin in her hair, answered: "Is that why you sent for me? that is nothing, every one has some of them."

That both the doctor and the nurse must be most explicit and plain in their instructions to a patient or the attendant is shown by the following incident. A visiting nurse was informed by a mother that the doctor had ordered suppositories for her baby, one to be inserted into the rectum every two hours, but the things did not melt as the doctor said they would. The nurse asked to see the suppositories and to be shown how the mother inserted them. She found that the druggist had dispensed them in small glass vials to keep them from melting, and the parent had inserted vial and all. Fortunately only four hours had elapsed, and the physician had only two vials to extract.

RED CROSS WORK

THE annual meeting of the Connecticut Branch of the American National Red Cross was held at Hartford, Connecticut, on November 18. The treasurer reported that thirty-four hundred and eighty-seven dollars and ninety-four cents had been received, and that twenty-eight hundred and fourteen dollars and thirty-six cents had been expended, either in relief work or as contributions to the Central Red Cross treasury, with the exception of a small amount needed for administration expense.

Five graduate, registered nurses had been added to the enrollment during the year, making a total enrollment for the state of fifteen. Each nurse is furnished by the National Society with a handsome badge on which her name and national number are engraved, and, when accidents occur, these badges will doubtless be of service to the wearers, guaranteeing their official position, compelling recognition, and making it possible for them to give competent first aid to the injured.

The report illustrates the importance of these badges with one or two instances. One was that of a Red Cross nurse who went to the scene of a trolley accident and, having no badge, was not allowed to go to work until she was, by chance, recognized by one of the physicians. A member of the state board of examination and registration of nurses says that the Red Cross badge is the best letter of introduction which a

nurse could carry, as it gives her prestige in all parts of the world and is so well protected by the laws of the Red Cross that it can hardly be worn fraudulently, which cannot be said of training school badges.

Mrs. Sarah T. Kinney, secretary of the society, encouraged the enrollment of nurses in the Red Cross and also of doctors, which, she said, had not been particularly successful up to the present time. Nevertheless, there has been an eagerness on the part of nurses and doctors of a certain sort to secure the right to use the name of the Red Cross. The secretary said that two young women had applied to her to be enrolled as Red Cross nurses. On inquiry it was learned that they had never had any professional training but had taken up the practice as a sort of makeshift and hoped that, by enlisting in the society, they would be sent to good posts in interesting countries, such as Cuba or China, with big pay from the association treasury.

Mrs. Kinney related, in amusing fashion, the efforts of a certain foreigner who wished to be enrolled as a doctor in the Connecticut branch and pretended to be a graduate of a medical school in good and regular standing. This man was already an ordinary member of the New York Red Cross and asked recognition as a Red Cross doctor in this state, with the right to wear the brassard and insignia. The secretary informed him that he could not do this but that he could have his name on the lists as a simple member, that if he wished to enroll on the list of doctors he must name the school from which he was graduated and the names of two reputable physicians who could vouch for his personal and professional standing. No answer was received. Later, he tried, by several subterfuges, such as changing his name and applying from another town, to obtain recognition as a Red Cross doctor, but was again refused, and in a decisive manner.

RED CROSS WORK IN NEW YORK STATE

THE medical committee of the New York State Branch of the Red Cross voted on January 7th in favor of concentrating its energies in the antituberculosis campaign upon day camp sanatoria.

One of the strong recommendations of these camps is their comparative inexpensiveness both to equip and to maintain. The New York Day Camp cost thirty-four cents a day for a patient.

The camp requires very little land. The materials needed include a cooking stove for the one meal a day, shacks or tents, reclining chairs, and an office for the doctor and nurse. There is probably not a community in the state which does not need such an institution and whose tuberculosis problem would not be simplified by its establishment.